

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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P 061828Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8819

FBI WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2175

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, HA

SUBJECT: CASTEL HAITI EXPLOSION: GOH HIGHLY CONCERNED ABOUT
REPORTED RELEASE OF SANSARICQ ON BAIL

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 2154

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY BRUTUS CALLED IN CHARGE THOMSON LATE AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 5, AND ALSO TELEPHONED ME SHORTLY AFTER MY RETURN TO PORT AU PRINCE, TO EXPRESS HIGH CONCERN ABOUT REPORTED RELEASE OF BERNARD SANSARICQ ON BAIL AND ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF SOMEONE PUTTING UP SO LARGE A SUM AS \$50,000.

2. BRUTUS SAID PRESIDENT DUVALIER HAD BEEN INFORMED OF RELEASE BY HIS OWN SOURCES (NOT SPECIFIED, BUT GOH HAS CONGEN IN MIAMI).

3. IF SOMEONE HAD PUT UP SUCH A SUBSTANTIAL SUM FOR BAIL, BRUTUS ARGUED, THIS RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT EXTENT OF SANSARICQ'S CONNECTIONS IN THE US AND ABOUT NATURE OF CONSPIRACY OR ORGANIZATION WHICH MIGHT BE BACKING HIM.

4. BRUTUS WENT ON TO SPECULATE WHETHER REPORTED RELEASE MIGHT SIGNIFY SOME BASIC CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARD HAITI. (WE ASSURED HIM THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO LOGICAL BASIS FOR ANY SUCH CHANGE. WE STRESSED DILIGENCE WITH WHICH US AUTHORITIES HAD PURSUED INVESTIGATION AND CARE
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WITH WHICH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD PREPARED LEGAL CASE

AGAINST SANSARICQ BEFORE FBI PROCEEDED WITH ARREST.)

5. BRUTUS SAID PRESIDENT DUVALIER HAD ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT SANSARICQ EITHER HAD STATED OR WOULD TESTIFY THAT DUVALIER HIMSELF HAD PUT HIM TO TERRORISTIC ACTIVITIES. BRUTUS WAS UNABLE TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY SANSARICQ. (WE ARGUED THAT ANY SUCH STATEMENTS WOULD BE SO RIDICULOUS AS TO BE DEVOID OF ANY CREDIBILITY. THOMSON REMARKED THAT HE HAD OBSERVED SANSARICQ TESTIFYING LAST JULY BEFORE SENATOR INOUE'S SUBCOMMITTEE: SANSARICQ'S STATEMENT AGAINST DUVALIER REGIME AT THAT TIME HAD BEEN EMOTIONAL AND ESSENTIALLY IRRATIONAL AND HAD UNDOUBTEDLY NOT BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY.)

6. BRUTUS WANTED TO KNOW:

(A) WHO PUT UP BAIL?

(B) WHAT WERE US LEGAL PROVISIONS ON TIME LIMIT AVAILABLE FOR POSTING BAIL, AND OTHER PERTINENT DETAILS OF US LEGAL PROCESS?

(C) WAS THE FBI INVESTIGATION BEING BROADENED TO BRING OUT THE FULL EXTENT OF CONSPIRACY BEHIND SANSARICQ?

(D) IS SANSARICQ FREE TO FLEE US TERRITORY AND ESCAPE FROM US JUSTICE IF PARTIES ARE WILLING TO FORFEIT BAIL?

7. BRUTUS LEFT MORNING NOVEMBER 6 FOR QUITO MFM, AND REQUESTED WE PROVIDE PROMPT ANSWERS TO PAUL BLANCHET, SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AND NATIONAL DEFENSE WHO WILL BE ACTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY IN HIS ABSENCE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE FURNISH GUIDANCE ASAP ON FOLLOWING:

(A) FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF RELEASE AND BAIL SYSTEM, INCLUDING FACTORS WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION.

Q) CONSTRAINTS WHICH WOULD PREVENT SANSARICQ FROM
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ESCAPING JUSTICE. E.G. CAN WE ASSURE GOH HE WILL BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE? IS HE KNOWN TO POSSESS ANY DOCUMENTS WHICH HE COULD USE FOR TRAVEL ABROAD?

(C) ANY OTHER CONSIDERTAIONS PERTINENT TO CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY BRUTUS.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: smithrj
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